

Moral perspectives

Vacation renews roots, vitality

The notion that all fun is either fattening or sinful is misleading when thinking about vacation time. We legitimately want enjoyment which renews and re-creates: we need recreation and the moral person fills this need.

It is a surprise to many to dis-

vital contact with what is basic in the universe.

Sabbath exists to restore relationship with the foundations of existence in nature, culture and self. We find our source and again fit into the eternal, universal scheme of things. Religion calls this foundation God but the title is not crucial.

What matters is renewing our roots and vitality. Sabbath rest and holiness includes recreation which develops qualities which make us human.

HOW DID we twist these truths about Sabbath? Religion was distorted by fear into the heresy that holiness means avoiding tension and amusement. Fun easily becomes passion for immediate gratification and that is sinful: religion counteracted by offering immediate salvation.

True piety has a strong emphasis on joy but much in religion exalts the somber and pictures God as detached from human reality.

Our society has glorified individualism because such a view gets work done. But when we ignore the Sabbath truths such a society creates either workaholics or lazy bums. We need a middle ground where rejoicing is a social experience and recreation creates community.

The weekly cycle expanded in ancient time into a cycle of seven years also. Sabbatical year celebrations included requirements for promoting justice by adjusting debts, aiding the poor and moving people out of poverty into the mainstream of economic life. Sabbath means sharing.

Recreation which roots in the Sabbath idea means renewal of relationship with our human foundations and development of a sense of human community.

Superficial fun, cheap thrills, and quick excitement are not recreation at all. Recreation is moral when it leads us deeper into the vibrant sources of reality and re-builds human community where we share life with others. Religion cultivates the inner spirit and recreation strengthens that spirit through the power of joy.

Markle elected nursery president

Mrs. William Markle of Troy was elected president of the Playmate Cooperative Nursery School at Beautiful Savior Church, 5631 North Adams, Bloomfield Hills, for the 1975-76 school year.

The cooperative nursery gives mothers the opportunity to share in the pre-school experiences of their three- and four-year-old children.

Information regarding sessions beginning the second week of September can be obtained from Mrs. David Shupe of Troy or through the church office.



By
REV. CHARLES
ERICKSON
Congregational
Church of
Birmingham

cover that religion is the source of recreational thinking. Our forefathers developed a seven-day cycle focused on the Sabbath. They taught that the Sabbath is a day of rest holy to the Lord. The week centers around a day of renewing

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"ONCE UPON A TIME"

I remember our Temple when I was a kid, (it seems like ages ago) and I have such nice warm memories.

I remember how almost everyone seemed like family. Our parents seemed to know and like each other and we kids were friends even though lots of us went to different schools.

I remember the Rabbi wasn't just someone we saw from a distance and didn't really know. We knew him and he knew us and we felt comfortable and relaxed with him.

I remember one religious school teacher in particular who took the whole thing and made it come alive.

I remember the warm feeling of our sanctuary, not the feeling of a cold museum, but of a quiet and serene place of thought.

I remember it so clearly because it's all happening again since we joined Temple Kol Ami.

Some things from the good old days really were good. If you'd like to have some old times again, give us a call.

We'd Love To Have You Join Us

For services any Friday at 8:30 p.m. and/or, for our membership open house Sunday, August 24 at 8 p.m. in our new home at 5085 Walnut Lake Road (just West of Farmington Rd.)

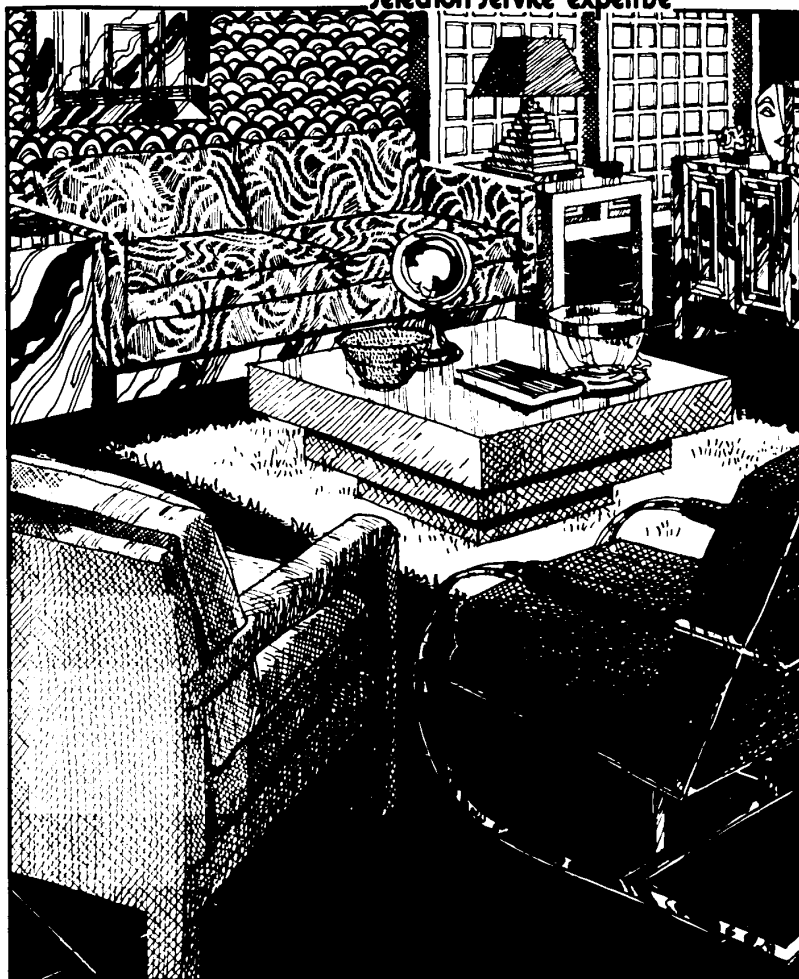
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